

Tshombe, Moise
CIA4 Congo

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Tshombe Faces Execution

The decision of the Algerian Supreme Court to extradite Moise Tshombe to the Congo where he is under sentence of death for treason is contrary to the traditions of extradition whereby politically accused individuals are generally exempt. The decision represents the anti-colonial attitude of the Algerian government rather than strict adherence to the tenets of international law.

The events in the Congo the last few weeks lend credence to charges that Tshombe was trying to organize a rebellion in the Congo against the government of General Mobutu. Observers have suggested that the kidnapping of Tshombe caught the plotting rebels, many of them white mercenaries from South Africa and Rho-

desia, by surprise and they started the revolt too soon for any chance of success. It is hardly a defense of Tshombe to point out that the Congo has had a succession of coups, revolts and plots since it received its full independence.

But the Algerian decision was a mistake particularly in view of the fact that Algerian officials may have conspired in the hijacking of Tshombe's plane and his kidnapping.

There is an ironic footnote to all the proceedings. When told of the court's decision, Tshombe shouted that he was a victim "of the American C.I.A." Being anti-American or at least anti-C.I.A. apparently is the popular method of trying to win public sympathy and support.

also seen in Green Bay (Wisc.) Press-Gazette.